THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news report refers to the poor quality of the statuette of the Arjuna Award given to Col. B.S. Sandhu in 1984. However, in the recent past Government has not received any complaints about the quality of statuette from any other quarter.

(c) According to the provision of the Scheme for Arjuna Award, the statuette is to be made of Bronze.

(d) News report also indicates that the statuette of Arjuna Award was taken by Col. Sandhu after a year or so. However, the Government will consider a request for replacement of the statuette in case the same is received from Col. Sandhu along with the "deteriorated" statuette.

Madarsa Board in Karnataka

*279. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request from Karnataka Government for providing financial assistance to enable them to constitute a Madarsa Board, to equip the Madarsas to teach conventional subjects and bring the students of these Madarsas to the mainstream; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sports Infrastructure

*280. SHRI P. N. SIVA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for lack of international level sports persons in the country :

(b) whether the country also lacks sports infrastructure of international standards; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to provide the required infrastructure facilities of international level in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI) : (a) Severe financial constraints and the enormity of the challenge of sports promotion and development of sports infrastructure across the country are main reasons for the slow development of sports performance in the country. In addition, the ratio of persons participating in competitive sports is low in comparison with those participating in recreational sports—leading to lesser competition and consequently lower performance. Food habits, age of entry into a sports discipline, environment and motivation play a crucial role in deciding the level of performance of a sports person. Besides, sports is yet to be made an integral part of our educational curriculum. All factors mentioned above have affected the level of performance of sports persons in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) On receipt of viable proposals, financial assistance is provided under schemes for creation of infrastructure facilities.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

ICAR Researches in Rice and Cotton Pests

1965. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of researches made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to protect rice and cotton from devastating pests;

(b) the details of other projects undertaken by the ICAR under National Agricultural Projects; and

(c) whether genetically engineered cotton and rice would be made available to farmers?